

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 COME-00 OMB-01 EB-07 SAJ-01 /085 W

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R 070900Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6501
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DUBAPEST
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0135

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, HU

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST AND HUNGARY REPORTEDLY TO ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: A) ABIDJAN 10407 OF DEC. 5, 1975(NOTAL), B) ABIDJAN

A-90 OF JULY 4, 1974(NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT HUNGARIAN
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE LASZLO VEZMAR RESIDENT ABIDJAN STATED
IN RECENT CONVERSATION THAT IVORY COAST AND HUNGARY WERE
SOON TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. REPRESENTATION
WOULD BE ON NON-RESIDENT BASIS WITH HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR IN
ACCRA ACCREDITED TO ABIDJAN. PROJECTED MOVE WOULD BE IN
KEEPING WITH RECENT GOIC POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT IVORY
COAST INTENDS TO EXPAND ITS RELATIONS TO INCLUDE ALL STATES
WHICH RECOGNIZE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY OF NON-INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL RELATIONS.

2. IF REPORT IS CORRECT, AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS

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MAY HAVE BEEN FINALIZED DURING VISIT TO ABIDJAN DECEMBER 10-18

OF HUNGARIAN TRADE DELEGATION COMPOSED OF EIGHT MEMBERS LED BY GYORI AHILA, DIRECTOR OF HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. DELEGATION INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF HUNGARIAN HEAVY INDUSTRY, PHARMACEUTICALS, PLASTICS, AND IMITATION-LEATHER INDUSTRIES. DELEGATION MET WITH IVORIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE SERI GNOLEBA AND OTHER GOIC OFFICIALS. AT CONCLUSION OF TRADE MISSION, DELEGATION LEADER INDICATED THAT HUNGARY AND IVORY COAST INTENDED TO BROADEN THEIR RELATIONS BEYOND THE COMMERCIAL TO INCLUDE ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

3. HUNGARY HAS HAD A RESIDENT TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN IVORY COAST SINCE 1968, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND HAS GENERALLY KEPT AN EXTREMELY LOW PROFILE(SEE REF B). TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS GENERALLY BEEN INCREASING, HOWEVER, AND IN MAY 1975 GOIC COMMERCE MINISTER GNOLEBA VISITED HUNGARY AS PART OF A TRIP INCLUDING SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CONTINUED WARINESS OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND GOIC LEADERSHIP TOWARD COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INTENTIONS WAS REFLECTED BY THE PUBLIC WARNING GIVEN THE HUNGARIAN TRADE DELEGATION THAT "IVORY COAST'S NEW ECONOMIC PARTNERS" MUST RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT MEDDLE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION WAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED BY HOUPHOUET AS WAS ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL DELEGATION WHICH VISITED ABIDJAN IN NOVEMBER (REF A). EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THAT ROMANIAN FOLLOW-UP DELEGATION, CONCENTRATING ON COOPERATION IN MINING SECTOR, VISITED IVORY COAST DECEMBER 17-25.
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